Proposal for Restructuring the Specification of General Education Requirements in the College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Science general education requirements extend the university requirements in several ways, depending on the degree, as documented in the bulletin p.111. Currently each additional requirement is tagged with the degrees to which it applies – BS, BA, BFA, or BLA. Within each section minor variations according to degree are explained. Thus, in practice, the CAS general education requirements are different for each of the degrees, which is reasonable because each degree has a different emphasis and corresponding student body.

I propose that the general education requirements be restructured to be specified according to degree, as written below. The separation will make it easier for students to understand their requirements. From a curriculum development perspective there is a cleaner structure within which to fine tune each degree's general education requirements. In particular, the currently homogeneous second language requirement might be addressed separately, according to the degree. I envisage the "arts" departments providing direction for the BA degree, the "science" departments providing direction for the BS degree, and the "fine arts" departments providing direction for the BFA degree. Any changes would still have to be approved by CAS faculty, as is currently the case.

Here's what the rewritten form would look like ...

Bachelor of Science:
+ Second Language Proficiency: See detail below.
+ Mathematics, Computing, & Statistics Proficiency: Degree candidates must complete a calculus sequence: MTH 161-162, MTH 140-141-162, or MTH 171-172, and either a) a computing course approved by the major department; or b) a statistics course approved by the major department.
+ Natural Science Area of Knowledge: Degree candidates must earn 3 credits in Natural Science, in one of the following departments: Biology, Chemistry, Geological Sciences or Physics. These credits must be earned in courses that count toward a major in that department. These Natural Science credits may double count with any other requirement.

Bachelor of Arts:
+ Second Language Proficiency: See detail below.
+ Mathematics, Computing, & Statistics Proficiency: Degree candidates must earn credit in a MTH course numbered 108 or higher.
+ Natural Science Area of Knowledge: Degree candidates must earn 3 credits in Natural Science: Anthropology (APY203), Biology, Chemistry, Ecosystem Science and Policy (ECS 111, ECS 112, ECS 202), Geography (GEG120), Geological Sciences, Marine Sciences (except MSC 313 and 314), Physical Sciences, and Physics. These Natural Science credits may double count with any other requirement.

Bachelor of Fine Arts:
+ Mathematics, Computing, & Statistics Proficiency: Degree candidates must earn credit in a MTH course numbered 108 or higher.

Bachelor of Liberal Arts:
+ None

Details of the Second Language Proficiency:
Degree candidates must earn at least 3 credits of a language other than English at the 200 level or higher. This requirement can be fulfilled through courses offered in the departments of Modern Languages and Literatures.
(Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish, except for courses numbered 310–319), Classics (Latin and Greek), and Teaching and Learning in the School of Education (American Sign Language). Special 100– and 200–level Spanish courses are required of heritage Spanish speakers who choose to fulfill the language requirement by taking Spanish. Courses taken in order to meet this requirement, including necessary prerequisite courses to the 200–level course, cannot be used in cognates taken to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge requirement.

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requirements of the University, i.e., the Proficiencies: English Composition, Writing Across the Curriculum, and Mathematics; and the Areas of Knowledge requirement: completion of a cognate in each of the three areas: Arts & Humanities, People & Society, and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. The university offers a large number and range of cognates. Additionally, each major and minor fulfills the cognate requirement in one Area of Knowledge.

I. Additional Proficiencies and Areas of Knowledge Requirements

In addition to the university's general education requirements, the college has the following requirements and provisos:

Second Language Proficiency (B.A. and B.S degrees)
B.A. and B.S. degree candidates must earn at least 3 credits of a language other than English at the 200 level or higher. This requirement can be fulfilled through courses offered in the departments of Modern Languages and Literatures (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish, except for courses numbered 310-319), Classics (Latin and Greek), and Teaching and Learning in the School of Education (American Sign Language). Special 100- and 200-level Spanish courses are required of heritage Spanish speakers who choose to fulfill the language requirement by taking Spanish. Courses taken in order to meet this requirement, including necessary prerequisite courses to the 200-level course, cannot be used in cognates taken to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge requirement.

B.A. and B.F.A. degree candidates must earn credit in a MTH course numbered 108 or higher. B.S. degree candidates must complete a calculus sequence: MTH 161-162, MTH 140-141-162, or MTH 171-172, and either a) a computing course approved by the major department; or b) a statistics course approved by the major department.

Natural Science Area of Knowledge (B.A. and B.S degrees)
B.A. degree candidates must earn 3 credits in Natural Science: Anthropology (APY203), Biology, Chemistry, Ecosystem Science and Policy (ECS 111, ECS 112, ECS 202), Geography (GEG120), Geological Sciences, Marine Sciences (except MSC 313 and 314), Physical Sciences, and Physics. These Natural Science credits may double count with any other requirement. B.S. degree candidates must earn 3 credits in Natural Science, in one of the following departments: Biology, Chemistry, Geological Sciences or Physics. These credits must be earned in courses that count toward a major in that department. These Natural Science credits may double count with any other requirement.

Separation of Proficiencies and Areas of Knowledge (All degrees)
Courses taken to fulfill the English Composition, Mathematics, and Second Language proficiency requirements cannot be used in cognates taken to fulfill the Areas of Knowledge requirement.